

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status of the Application

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application (having been renumbered from claims 48-60). Per the Examiner's requirement claims 48-60 have been renumbered 1-14 respectively.

Claims 1-2 and 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Choyce (U.S. Patent No. 4,277,851).

Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Richards et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,994,082).

Interview on January 7, 2003

Applicant, at this time, wishes to thank the Examiner for her time during the interview of January 7, 2003. During the interview, Applicant discussed cited prior art references Choyce (U.S. Patent No. 4,277,851) and Richards (U.S. Patent No. 4,994,082) in light of the pending claims and suggested claim amendments.

The substance of the interview included a discussion of claims 1, 9, and 15. With respect to claim 1, the nature of the notches were discussed in that the notches serve to fixate the outer ends of the haptics to prevent the haptics from becoming dislocated.

With respect to claim 9, the language of "a single optic only" was discussed as overcoming the Richards reference.

With respect to proposed new claim 15, the language of a "thinner portion" rather than a "thinned" portion was discussed so as not to introduce new matter and therefore avoid a new matter rejection. The language of the "thinner portion" was discussed in relation to adding the reference number 15, 16 which is shown in figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9 10, and 11 as having a thinner portion of the haptic adjacent to the optic.

Anticipation Rejection Under Choyce (U.S. Patent No. 4,277,851)

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 102(b) anticipation rejection under Choyce. Applicant has amended claim 1 to further define features of Applicant's inventive lens defining that one or more notches are spaced about the lateral edges of the haptics. As set forth in the specification, the notches assist in preventing the ends of the haptics from becoming dislocated. This additional feature should not be construed to limit other embodiments of Applicant's lens not depending from claim 1.

Anticipation Rejection Under Richards (U.S. Patent No. 4,994,082)

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 102(b) anticipation rejection under Richards. Applicant has amended claim 9 to further define features of an embodiment of Applicant's inventive lens in that only a single optic is required. This additional feature should not be construed to limit other embodiments of Applicant's lens not depending from claim 9.

Newly Added Claims

Applicant has added claims 15-22 which further describe inventive embodiments of Applicant's lens. Paragraph [0048] of the specification has been modified to add the following sentence: The haptics have a thinner portion 15, 16 adjacent to the optic. Each of the lenses as shown in figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, and 11 have the thinner portion of the haptic adjacent to the optic.

Applicant also submits new drawing pages for the figures with reference numbers 15 and 16 showing the thinner portion of the haptics.

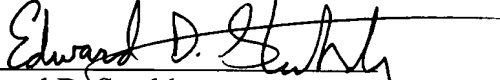
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2375, under Order No. HO-P02089US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 3, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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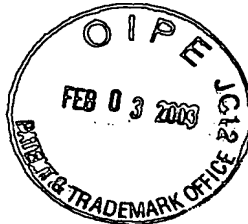
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**Version With Markings to Show Changes Made****In the Specification**

[0048] Referring to the drawings, and particularly to Figure 1, a preferred embodiment 10 has a distal portion of a plate haptic 12 with protuberances 14 thereon. The sectional view of Figure 2 shows the configuration of the protuberances which extend from both sides of haptic 12. A protuberance may extend from only one side or surface of the haptic. The protuberances will not pass or slide through a fibrosis tunnel or pocket disposed about proximally adjacent smaller dimensioned portions of the haptic. The haptics have a thinner portion 15 adjacent to the optic. Each of the lenses as shown in figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, and 11 have the thinner portion of the haptic adjacent to the optic.

In the Claims

[48.] 1. An intraocular lens for implanting within a natural capsular bag of a human eye, said lens implant comprising:

a lens body having anterior and posterior sides and including an optic and two or more plate haptics spaced about said optic, said haptics having inner ends adjacent to said optic and outer ends extending from said optic, said haptics having lateral edges; and

at least one of said haptics having one or more notches spaced about said lateral edges of said haptics.

[49.] 2. A lens according to claim [48] 1, wherein:

said notches have an edge portion to prevent said haptics from becoming dislocated.

[50.] 3. A lens according to claim [49] 2, wherein:

said edge portion being disposed at a substantial angle to a longitudinal axis of said haptic.

[51.] 4. A lens according to claim [49] 2, wherein:

said edge portion being disposed at a substantial angle to a side edge of said haptic.

[52.] 5. A lens according to claim [49] 2, wherein:

said edge portion being disposed substantially transversally to a longitudinal axis of said haptic.

[53.] 6. A lens according to claim [49] 2, wherein:

said edge portion being disposed substantially transversally to a side edge of said haptic.

[54.] 7. A lens according to claim [48] 1, further comprising:

a plurality of protuberences extending outwardly from at least one of the anterior and/or posterior sides of one or more of said haptics to fixate said haptic in a natural capsular bag of an eye.

[55.] 8. A lens according to claim [48] 1, wherein:

at least one of said haptics has a plurality of openings formed therethrough to allow fibrosis of an anterior capsule remnant to a posterior capsule remnant through said haptic outer end opening following implantation of said lens into a natural capsular bag of an eye.

[55.] 9. An intraocular lens for implanting within a natural capsular bag of a human eye, said lens implant comprising:

a[n] single optic only having an anterior and posterior sides and one or more haptics extending from the edge of said optic,

said haptics having inner ends adjacent to said optic and outer ends extending from said optic,

said haptics being adapted to move said optic anteriorly and posteriorly relative to the outer ends of said haptics upon constriction and relaxation of the ciliary muscle of the eye, and

said haptics having at least one protuberance extending from at least one surface of said haptic.

[56.] 10. The lens according to claim [55] 9, wherein said at least one protuberance extends anteriorly from said haptics.

[57.] 11. The lens according to claim [55] 9, wherein said at least one protuberance extends posteriorly from said haptics.

[58.] 12. The lens according to claim [55] 9, wherein said at least one protuberance extends both anteriorly and posteriorly from said haptics.

[59.] 13. The lens according to claim [55] 9, wherein said at least one protuberance extends laterally from said haptics.

[60.] 14. The lens according to claim [55] 9, wherein at said least one protuberance extends anteriorly or posteriorly, or both anteriorly and posteriorly from said haptics, and may have at least one other protuberance that extends laterally from said haptics.



15. The lens according to claim 1 or 9, wherein said inner ends have a thinner portion adjacent to the optic.

16. The lens according to claim 9, wherein said haptics have lateral edges, and at least one of said haptics have one or more notches spaced about said lateral edges of said haptics.

17. The lens according to claim 1 or claim 9, wherein said lateral edges of said haptics are parallel to each other, or tapered outwardly from the optic, or tapered inwardly from the optic.

18. The lens according to claim 1 or claim 9, wherein said haptics have one or more openings formed therethrough.

19. The lens according to claim 9, wherein the protuberances are prong portions with globular knob end portions.

20. The lens according to claim 9, wherein the protuberances are prong protuberances.

21. The lens according to claim 9, wherein the protuberances extend outwardly from the anterior and/or posterior sides.

22. The lens according to claim 9, wherein the protuberances extend outwardly from the peripheral border of said haptic.

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